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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,819	05/09/2006	Chad Andrew LeFevre	PU030294	5245
24498	7590	10/11/2011	EXAMINER	
Robert D. Shedd, Patent Operations THOMSON Licensing LLC P.O. Box 5312 Princeton, NJ 08543-5312			MARANDI, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2421	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/11/2011	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspto@technicolor.com
pat.verlangieri@technicolor.com
russell.smith@technicolor.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,819	Applicant(s) LEFEVRE ET AL.	
	Examiner JAMES MARANDI	Art Unit 2421	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/18/2010 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 4/20/2011 was filed after the mailing date of the final office action on 12/8/2009. In view of the Continued Examination request of 3/18/2010, the submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is eligible for consideration by the examiner.

Response to Amendment

3. This action is in response to applicant's remarks and amendment filed on 3/18/2010.
Claims 1-20 are presently pending.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1- 20 have been considered but they are not persuasive.

4.1. With respect to claim 1:

- 4.1.1. Applicant argues that “...***applicants claimed obtaining, by the television apparatus from the selected peripheral device, responsive to said user request, is different from Eytchison where the AV file system gains the information when the device is connected to the network***” (Page 8 of Remarks, 2nd paragraph). Applicant further asserts that “***Eytchison describes creating this TOC in response to the addition of a device***”, and further cites “***As shown by Eytchison in Fig. 4A, the content database 450, TOC or CID table is clearly not the selected peripheral device, as required in claim 1***” (Page 8 of Remarks, 3rd paragraph).

Examiner respectfully disagrees:

4.1.1.1. First, Applicant has neither disclosed nor particularly claimed what “obtaining” is. Applicant has not disclosed how a user simply selects content information when there is no awareness by the system as to the location and or even existence of said content. Therefore, Eytchison's disclosure, as detailed in Fig. 4A, reads on Applicant's claim, as the system “obtains” the content information for all resources connected to the users device.

4.1.1.2. Second, responsive to the “user request”, as shown in Fig. 1, selecting "HDD", the content information (1-5) on said device is displayed. See Col. 4, lines 61-67

4.1.1.3. Third, Applicant's claim recites “content information” and does not specify what content or what information. Therefore, Eytchison's disclosure reads on Applicants claim, as selection, by the user, of HDD returns information about the content available on the HDD.

4.2. With respect to claims 2-20, Applicant relies on the same arguments as presented and analyzed for claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1- 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over E.B. Eytchison et al., USPN 7,206,853 (hereinafter "Eytchison") in view of J.S. Hendricks et al., USPN 5,559,549 (hereinafter "Hendricks").

6.1. Regarding claim 1, Eytchison discloses: **A method for displaying on a television apparatus** (Fig. 2, TV 105, display 120), **content information associated with peripheral device** (Display 120 is further detailed, in alternative configuration of Fig. 8c, 80, where the content is shown be device, e.g. "HDD" 102) **interconnected with the television apparatus (120) via a digital serial bus (110), the method comprising:**

receiving, by the television apparatus (105, 120), a user request (e.g. via selection by remote control 81) **to view content information associated**

with a selected peripheral device (Content associated with “HDD” 102)
interconnected to the television apparatus (105) **via the digital serial bus**
(110); see Col. 15, lines 2- 25

obtaining, by the television apparatus (105, 120) **from the selected peripheral device** (Fig. 1, HDD), **responsive to said user request** (command and selection via remote control 81, having selected HDD, Col. 4, lines 61-67), **content information of the selected peripheral device** (“HDD 102) **regardless of whether the selected peripheral device is the currently selected input source for the television apparatus**, Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV 105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs “HDD”, and “WEB”. Selection of any of the tabs, for example “HDD”, does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV; Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 7, line 2. The process of “obtaining” is detailed in Fig. 4A, where a Device Abstraction Layer (DAL) is disclosed. DAL 210 captures the content of various attached devices as shown in 410, and using AV file manger 402, creates a Virtual File system 402, with TOC 421. Based on this virtual file system, at 430, a content database is created, where content is categorized and stored in Cache 452. An example of such database table depicting relationships of fields is shown in Fig. 4B. Cache pages are created based on the user needs/ requirements. For example 453 is a list of Horror

Movies. In Fig.8 c another example is provided where content is also sorted by genre (sport) and device (HDD); **and**

displaying (e.g. Fig. 8c, 80), **by the television apparatus** (105, 120), **the received content information for the selected peripheral device** (programs available on HDD tab),

wherein the received content information is displayed on a content display uniquely associated with the selected peripheral device (programs available on HDD tab, as in screen 80). (Col. 7, lines 8- 40; Col. 9, line14 through Col. 10, line 54; Col. 15, lines 2- 25)

Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV 105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs “HDD”, and “WEB”. Selection of any of the tabs, for example “HDD”, does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV. Eytchison does not disclose that the TV is tuned to another program while the TV displays screen 80, and the viewer is going through the menu options at his/ her disposal, therefore he is silent on **tuning, by the television apparatus, to a currently selected input source**; while obtaining and displaying content information from selected peripheral devices.

However, Hendricks discloses program overlay menus, whereby menus (program selection/ channel selection) are presented to the user while the viewer enjoys a currently tuned program (Col. 18, lines 11- 58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the system of Eytchison with Hendricks ' invention, in order to allow the viewer to tune to and watch a program while surfing and deciding on what to watch next. (Hendricks, Col. 18, lines 14- 17)

6.1.1. Regarding claim 2, Eytchison discloses **wherein the digital serial bus is an IEEE 1394 compliant serial bus**, see Col. 5, lines 47- 59.

6.1.2. Regarding claim 3, Eytchison discloses **in response to a second user input, obtaining, by the television apparatus, content information from a second selected peripheral device; and displaying, by the television apparatus, the received content information of the second selected peripheral device**, user may select any of the devices attached/discovered to bus 110, and shown in the menu of 120 and see the menu associated with that device (Col. 4, lines 65-67). Furthermore, Eytchison discloses a content-centric architecture, where through a CLS (Content Location System), the user may select content (on any device) first, Eytchison

invention then determines which device the selected content is located on, and presents said content with relevant controls (from abstracted device) to the user. (Fig. 3, Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 8, line 7)

6.1.3. Regarding claim 4, Eytchison discloses **wherein the content information comprises table of contents information for programs stored on a storage medium of the selected peripheral device**, the menu for HDD device is a list (table) of content stored on the HDD device (Col. 5, lines 1-3).

6.1.4. Claim 5 is rejected as claim 3.

6.1.5. Regarding claim 6, Eytchison discloses **allowing by the television apparatus, a user to cycle through a loop of peripheral devices interconnected to the television apparatus**, as shown in Fig. 8c, the user cycles through attached devices through selection of tabs, and associated table of content for each tab.

6.1.6. Regarding claim 7, the system of Eytchison and Hendricks discloses **allowing by the television apparatus, a user to manipulate the displayed content information in response to user input received by the television apparatus**. (User manipulates the table of content, as shown

for example in Fig. 8c by selecting content for, record, etc. Also, as shown in Fig. 4A and disclosed in Col. 8, lines 16- 68, the CLS 302 works with the file manager 402 and virtual file system 420 to update changes in response to events and user request.)

6.1.7. Regarding claim 8, the system of Eytchison and Hendricks discloses **wherein manipulation includes moving through the content information, deleting the content information, and playing selected programs**, as discussed for claim 7, the user is enabled to scroll through content, play, and through CLS update, change, delete content information.

6.2. Regarding claim 9, Eytchison discloses: **A method for displaying on a television apparatus** (Fig. 2, TV 105, display 120), **table of content information associated with a peripheral device** (Display 120 is further detailed, in alternative configuration of Fig. 8c, 80, where the content is shown by device, e.g. "HDD" 102) **interconnected with the television apparatus (105) via an IEEE 1394 bus** (110, Col. 5, lines 47- 59) **the method comprising:**

providing, on the digital television apparatus (105, 120) in response to a first user input to the digital television apparatus (e.g. via remote control 81), **a menu allowing a user to request viewing of table of content**

information of a selected peripheral device interconnected to the digital television apparatus (Fig. 8c, 80 shows table of content for HDD 102, and Web, which are selectable by the tabs) **via the IEEE 1394 bus** (110, Col. 5, lines 47-59), **the option provided by the digital television apparatus regardless of whether the selected peripheral device is a currently selected input source for the digital television apparatus** (Selection of any of the tabs, for example “HDD”, does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV; Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 7, line 2);

establishing, by the television apparatus, responsive to said user requests (command and selection via remote control 81) **communication between the digital television apparatus and the selected peripheral device via the IEEE 1394 bus** (Fig. 2, selection of HDD enables the user to connect and see the file system comprising content information on HDD, Col. 4, line 61-67), **without tuning, by the television apparatus, to the selected peripheral device** (none of the contents on HDD are presented to the viewer, therefore there is no tuning, until the user actually selects a particular content); (Fig. 2, 110, Col. 5, lines 47- 59);

obtaining, by the digital television apparatus (105, 120) via the established IEEE 1394 bus, table of content information associated with a storage medium of the selected peripheral device, Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV

105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs "HDD", and "WEB". Selection of any of the tabs, for example "HDD", does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV; Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 7, line 2. The process of "obtaining" is detailed in Fig. 4A, where a Device Abstraction Layer (DAL) is disclosed. DAL 210 captures the content of various attached devices as shown in 410, and using AV file manger 402, creates a Virtual File system 402, with TOC 421. Based on this virtual file system, at 430, a content database is created, where content is categorized and stored in Cache 452. An example of such database table depicting relationships of fields is shown in Fig. 4B. Cache pages are created based on the user needs/ requirements. For example 453 is a list of Horror Movies. In Fig.8 c another example is provided where content is also sorted by genre (sport) and device (HDD); **and**

displaying (e.g. Fig. 8c, 80), **by the digital television apparatus** (105, 120), **the received table of content information for the selected peripheral device** (programs available on HDD tab), **wherein the received content information is displayed on a content display uniquely associated with the selected peripheral device** (programs available on HDD tab, as in screen 80). (Col. 7, lines 8- 40; Col. 9, line14 through Col. 10, line 54; Col. 15, lines 2- 25)

Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV 105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs "HDD", and "WEB". Selection of any of the tabs, for example "HDD", does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV. Eytchison does not disclose that the TV is tuned to another program while the TV displays screen 80, and the viewer is going through the menu options at his/ her disposal, therefore he is silent on **tuning, by the television apparatus, to a currently selected input source**; while obtaining and displaying content information from selected peripheral devices.

However, Hendricks discloses program overlay menus, whereby menus (program selection/ channel selection) are presented to the user while the viewer enjoys a currently tuned program (Col. 18, lines 11- 58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the system of Eytchison with Hendricks ' invention, in order to allow the viewer to tune to and watch a program while surfing and deciding on what to watch next. (Motivation is also confirmed by Hendricks, Col. 18, lines 14- 17)

6.2.1. Regarding claim 10, Eytchison disclose **detecting connection of the selected peripheral device to the IEEE 1394 bus, and upon detection, obtaining the table of content information from the selected peripheral device.** (Col. 8, lines 24- 27)

6.2.2. Regarding claim 11, as analyzed in claim 9, Eytchison discloses that **in response to a second user input, establishing communication between the digital television apparatus and a second selected peripheral device via the IEEE 1394 serial bus; obtaining by the digital television apparatus, table of content information associated with a storage medium of the second selected peripheral device; and displaying by the digital television apparatus, the received table of content information from the second selected peripheral device,** peripheral devices, e.g. HDD and web, shown on the tabs of Fig. 8c, are attached to serial bus 110, which is disclose to be 1394 as in Fig. 2, Col. 5, lines 47- 59. The user may select any of the tabs, as desired, in any sequence.

6.2.3. Regarding claim 12, Eytchison discloses **wherein the table of content information of the selected peripheral device includes one or more of title, time created, total track time, current track time, artist, genre, and program description for each track of table of content data.** (Content attributes/ metadata as disclosed in Col. 5, lines 22-29. An example of

content metadata attribute tables is shown Fig. 4B)

6.2.4. Regarding claim 13, Eytchison discloses **allowing by the digital television apparatus, a user to cycle through a loop of peripheral devices interconnected to the television apparatus via the IEEE 1394 serial bus** (as shown in Fig. 8c, the user cycles through attached devices through selection of tabs, and associated table of content for each tab. Devices are connected via bus 110, which is disclosed to be 1394 bus, Fig. 2, Col. 5, lines 47- 59) **without tuning, by the television apparatus, to the selected peripheral device** (none of the contents on HDD are presented to the viewer, therefore there is no tuning, until the user actually selects a particular content); (Fig. 2, 110, Col. 5, lines 47- 59).

6.2.5. Regarding claim 14, Eytchison discloses **allowing by the digital television apparatus, a user to manipulate the displayed content data in response to user input received by the digital television apparatus including moving through the table of content information, deleting table of content information, and playing a selected program;** (the user manipulates the table of content, as shown for example in Fig. 8c by selecting content for, record, etc. Also, as shown in Fig. 4A and disclosed in Col. 8, lines 16- 68, the CLS 302 works with the file manager 402 and virtual file system 420 to update changes in response to events and user request.)

6.3. Regarding claim 15, Eytchison discloses: **A digital television apparatus** (Fig. 2, TV 105, display 120) **comprising:**

(b) means for receiving (by the television apparatus 105, 120), **a user request** (e.g. via selection by remote control 81) **to view table of content information associated with a selected peripheral device** (an example of tale of content associated with “HDD” 102 is detailed in Fig. 8c, 80, tab HDD) **interconnected to the television apparatus (105) via the digital serial bus (110);** see Col. 15, lines 2- 25

(c) means for obtaining (by the television apparatus 105, 120) **from the selected peripheral device** (e.g. HDD as shown in Fig. 2, Col. 4, lines 61-67), **responsive to said user request** (command and selection via remote control 81), **table of content information of the selected peripheral device** (“HDD 102) **regardless of whether the selected peripheral device is the currently selected input source for the television apparatus,** Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV 105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs “HDD”, and “WEB”. Selection of any of the tabs, for example “HDD”, does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV; Col. 6, line 60 through Col. 7, line 2. The process of “obtaining” is detailed in Fig. 4A, where a Device Abstraction Layer (DAL) is disclosed. DAL

210 captures the content of various attached devices as shown in 410, and using AV file manger 402, creates a Virtual File system 402, with TOC 421. Based on this virtual file system, at 430, a content database is created, where content is categorized and stored in Cache 452. An example of such database table depicting relationships of fields is shown in Fig. 4B. Cache pages are created based on the user needs/ requirements. For example 453 is a list of Horror Movies. In Fig.8 c another example is provided where content is also sorted by genre (sport) and device (HDD); **and**

(d) means for displaying (e.g. Fig. 8c, 80; by the television apparatus 105, 120), **the received table of content information for the selected peripheral device** (programs available on HDD tab), **wherein the received content information is displayed on a content display uniquely associated with the selected peripheral device** (programs available on HDD tab, as in screen 80). (Col. 7, lines 8- 40; Col. 9, line14 through Col. 10, line 54; Col. 15, lines 2- 25)

Eytchison discloses a menu (120, Fig. 2) of available content from various devices attached to the TV 105 via network 110. A further detailed example of such menu is shown in Fig. 8c (80), where content is listed by tabs “HDD”, and “WEB”. Selection of any of the tabs, for example “HDD”, does not tune to selected device till the actual content is selected, at which point the content and its associated controls are forwarded to the TV. Eytchison does not disclose that

the TV is tuned to another program while the TV displays screen 80, and the viewer is going through the menu options at his/ her disposal, therefore he is silent on **means for tuning, by the television apparatus, to a currently selected input source**; while obtaining and displaying content information from selected peripheral devices.

However, Hendricks discloses program overlay menus, whereby menus (program selection/ channel selection) are presented to the user while the viewer enjoys a currently tuned program (Col. 18, lines 11- 58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the system of Eytchison with Hendricks ' invention, in order to allow the viewer to tune to and watch a program while surfing and deciding on what to watch next. (Motivation is also confirmed by Hendricks, Col. 18, lines 14- 17)

6.3.1. Regarding claim 16, Eytchison discloses **means for allowing a user to cycle through a loop of peripheral devices interconnected on the digital serial bus for viewing of table of content information associated with a selected one of the peripheral devices** (as shown in Fig. 8c, the user cycles through attached devices through selection of tabs, and associated table of content for each tab) **without tuning, by the television**

apparatus, to the selected peripheral device (none of the contents on HDD are presented to the viewer, therefore there is no tuning, until the user actually selects a particular content); (Fig. 2, 110, Col. 5, lines 47- 59).

6.3.2. Regarding claim 17, Eytchison discloses means **for allowing a user to manipulate the displayed table of content information in response to user input received by the digital television apparatus.** (the user manipulates the table of content, as shown for example in Fig. 8c by selecting content for, record, etc. Also, as shown in Fig. 4A and disclosed in Col. 8, lines 16- 68, the CLS 302 works with the file manager 402 and virtual file system 420 to update changes in response to events and user request.)

6.3.3. Regarding claim 18, Eytchison discloses **wherein manipulation includes moving through the content information, deleting the content information, and playing selected programs,** as discussed for claim 17, the user is enabled to scroll through content, play, and through CLS update, change, delete content information.

7. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eytchison in view of Hendricks, further in view of M.I. Sezan et al., USPGPUB 2005/0060641 (hereinafter "Sezan").

7.1. Regarding Claims 19 and 20, the system of Eytchison and Hendricks discloses determining of content related information (CID, title, genre, etc.) from various sources (Eytchison: Col. 9, lines 44 through Col. 10, line 7). The system of Eytchison and Hendricks is silent on **wherein the content information was obtained from PSIP data associated with the program data stream.**

However, Sezan, in analogous art, discloses that **wherein the content information** (program description) **was obtained from PSIP data associated with the program data stream.** (§§ [63] - [65]; in particular § [63], 1st four lines)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention, to modify the system of Eytchison and Hendricks with Sezan's invention in order to retrieve program related information/ description from readily available and standards based PSIP and provide for IEEE 1394 and HAVi enabled content centric communication among devices (Motivation as per Sezan § [65]).

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES MARANDI whose telephone number is (571)270-1843. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM M-F, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James R. Marandi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2421

/KRISTINE KINCAID/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2421